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His Majesty's Ship Acton
Liverpool 10th May 1738.

Sir

I beg leave to inform you, there
was sent on board His Majesty's Ship
Acton, as volunteers for the Fleet,
two young men, whose Drefs & by their
addrefs are above the kind naturally
expected to enter into the Service, and
whom I suspect to be flying from
the Kingdom, they say they came
from Dublin, they were Passengers
going for Jamaica in a West Indianman
to purchase Commissions in the Army
there, But that they had been arrested
and forced to pay the money, which
rendered them incapable of paying
their Passage, the inconsistency of
their story, and the earnest desire
they have to go away in the Charon,

Evans Nepean Esq.

confirming

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confirming me in my Opinion,
thought it proper their Lordships
should be acquainted with the circum-
stance, to whom he pleased to
communicate it. I have sent the
descriptions in case they should be
as I suspect, I mean to detain
them until such time as I hear
further from you. I have the
honor to be
Yr^{ts} Obedt^h Servant

Michael James. - - - Age 23. 5 ft 5 1/2 high, Brown
Complexion, Grey Eyes, dark
Hair tied, long visage, freckled
Face, Scar over his left Eye
Slender made born in the
County of Limerick Ireland

John James. - - - Age 21. 5 ft 4 high, Fair Com-
plexion, grey Eyes, light
brown Hair tied, full face
lightly pitted with the small
Pox, stout made, born in
the County of Limerick Ireland

Copy

Villle de Paris before Landing
20th April 1798

Sir,

I did not pay much attention to the history of the Man described in the enclosed when it was first related some many months ago, because I have experienced many impositions of the kind practiced with a view to be released from the King's service, but Captain Miller being so thoroughly convinced that the Prisoner did commit the atrocious Murder he has confessed, and he being in other respects a most profligate Character, I have thought it my duty to send him to England in the *Blanche*, in order to his being brought to trial, and Captain Gotham has my directions to keep him in safe custody until he receives directions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty how to dispose of him. - I am &c

S. Vincent

Dean Nepian Esq^r

Thesus off Lady 13th April 1798

My Lord,

I have the honor to enclose
to your Lordship a Letter from
the Rev. Frederick Morris Chaplain of
His Majesty's Ship Thesus under my
Command, together with a Confession
made to him by William Connor
belonging to the said Ship of his
having committed a Murder, and
Robbery in Ireland for which he
was taken up tried and condemned
but escaped by bribing the Jailor.

I acknowledge to your Lordship
I have long known of this Crime but
the appearance of deep and
sincere contrition in Connor
prevented my taking any steps
to deliver him to Justice in hopes
that his internal sufferings would
render him in future a worthy
Subject

Carl St Vincent

Subject to His Majesty, but for
Several Months past his conduct
having totally changed to that
of an idle, gambling vagabond,
and having the strongest conviction
in my own mind, supported by
some positive, and much circum-
stantial evidence; and the
general opinion of the Officers
that he was principally concerned
in a considerable robbery on
board, I conceived it no longer
proper to suffer such a Character
to be at large in the ship, and
therefore caused him to be put
in Irons on his own confession
that he might suffer the fate the
Law has already doomed him
to, and he richly merits; and
have now to request your Lordship's
orders for my Government respecting

W. I have him. - I have the honor to be
named him as
upon the ship's books Wm Connor. B. Willott M.D.
to the Chaplain he calls himself
John Connor.

Therew of Bodiny 31st Mar 1798

Sir,

I conceive it my duty to
send you the Particulars of a
declaration made to me by John
Connor of His Majesty's Ship Therew
the 22^d May 1797 (and now under
your command) concerning a
robbery and Murder committed
by him and his Brother, on the
Body of the Rev.^d Alex.^r McGuroy
and his wife, belonging to the
Townland of Arknavallack.

I am &c

And.^s Morris.

*To Ralph Willatt Miller Esq.
Captain H. M. S. Therew.*

Thames, off Cadiz, 22^d Aug 1798

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Question.

By desire of Captain Cymer, I have vent
for you here Connor, enquire into the
Nature of the Crime, you wished to confess
to him on the Quarter Deck this Morning.

Connor - I have no rest by day or night and am
greatly troubled in mind thro' the
appearance of the Minister continually
before my face, whom I shot and robbed,
my Brother was with me, and threatened
to take my life, with his Pistol held at
my Ear, if I did not first fire into the
Carriage where the Minister and his
Lady were, I then fired immediately
knowing my Brother was determined
in what he said, and shot the
Clergyman, robbed him of a gold
watch, his Lady of a Purse of money
containing nearly £50, my Brother
stopt the Carriage holding his Pistol
at the Driver to prevent his going on,
soon after we were both apprehended
and taken to Downpatrick Goal,
tried for our lives and sentenced
to Death, - willing to try to make our
escape if possible, I one Evening told
the Gaoler, Hugh Robinson, there was
a gold watch for him if we could
be set at liberty, he took the watch
and sent us off about 2 o'clock in
The

the morning, my Brother was soon taken
and hanged, I made my escape from
Donaghadee, to Port Patrick, to Glasgow
I entered on board a Sailer, came to
Plymouth and was ordered on
board the Cambridge, I have seen
in the newspapers an Advertisement
describing my person &c and rather
than suffer in mind what I do at
present, my wish is to be returned
to Prison, and to undergo the punishment
of Death, as I feel I am in this
world I can have no rest or peace,
I wished to be removed to some quiet
part of the ship, and if Mr Glennah
would let me remain down below
not to see light I shall be thankful.

Question - What was the Minister's Name, was
he a Catholic or a Protestant.

Answer - His Name was Alexander McGordon
a Protestant Minister.

Question - What Religion do you profess -
or was brought up in.

Answer - A Protestant, my Father is a
Protestant and my Mother a
Catholic, the Boys were all
Protestants, and the Girls Catholics
which often caused disputes
between the Family.

Question - Your Father & Mother are both living
Answer -

Connor - Both are living in the Townland of Arkmavallack.

Question - What are their Christian Names.

Connor - Thomas and Peggy.

Question - Does your Father follow any Trade

Connor - yes, he is a Stone Mason, also keeps a Blacksmith's Shop.

Question - From whom did you and your Brother get the Pistols.

Connor - My Brother gave me mine, and I am not certain where he got them but believe it was from Billy Fullerton of the Townland of Crappan, an acquaintance of his.

Question - Tell me your Brother's name and his Age?

Connor - James Connor, I think he was twenty five years old as I saw him then.

Question - Did your Father or Mother know your intention before the Murder and Robbery.

Connor - No.

Question - you are very certain that you gave the Gold Watch to Hugh Robinson and that in consequence of the Writ you and your Brother were

were at Kilsyth?

Connor - I am very certain of it. I must know the watch again and would William McCurdy the Minister's son. -

Question Did you ever hear of Robinsons accepting a bribe before. -

Connor - No Never -

Question you saw in the Press, a person. Advertisement was apprehend your person, or was your brother -

Connor I picked it up in a little room by accident at my Cousins where I slept. -

Question What made you go particularly to Scotland. -

Connor Having a Relation there, one Sam. Kirkpatrick, living at Glasgow. -

Question you are certain that your brother is a relation and name it

Connor Very certain. I think so. -

Question you are certain for me to make a application to the Court of Session to remove you

some quiet part of the ship, and
 also to speak to the Captain, and
 send your home the best —
 convenient opportunity. —

Banner. — If you please. —

Question. You are very miserable in
 mind, and would readily go —
 home to suffer death rather —
 than remain here. —

Banner. I must rather go home and end
 my torments. —

The original Declaration
 was made before me the 22^d
 May 1797

Thos. D. Morris

Captain of the Prisoners.

Thursday 19th April 1798

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My Love

I am very sorry to inform your
Lorship that the Emperor has stopped
the transportation of sheep and bullocks.
other articles are left free as usual. The
orders are general for all Nations, but
certainly meant against us, because it
is well known that we are almost
the only people who take
little or no Poultry, of which our Enemies
export great quantities. —

I demanded of the Customs whether
a King's ship coming in would be
supplied as usual, and was answered
no but not as in general former times
they should take it to the Port, or find
it in the cellar, thus replacing it
without the usual duties. I
have since told them that
they would carry a boat over
to take the duties to be paid in the
Port on the subject. —

Two days since a considerable
quantity of Cannon arrived here in
present for the Emperor, and we

The Right Hon^{ble}
Earl of Lincoln

daily

not a single that will be seen
leading for the distance of the river
beyond our reception.

I am told they have that they
certainly mean to stir out some
detachments, and that the same
the Western Green River
territory. Two ships with men
from the Government have been
sent into the river.

Chas. H. Horn to be so

Chas. H. Horn to be so

Chas. H. Horn to be so
18th May 1798.

Having laid before my Lords
 members of the Admiralty your letter of the
 4th inst^t transmitting by the Duke of Portland
 directions as relating to which His Grace
 had received from the Major of Plymouth
 respecting Henry Garner taken on board
 a private vessel. I am directed
 by their Lordships to acquaint you for
 the Information of His Grace that they
 have given directions to the Transport
 Board to release the said Henry Garner
 and give him in charge of the Major
 of Plymouth. I am &c

Edw. Boscawen

Wm Pitt Rivers Esq^r

Admiralty Office, 1st June 1798

Sir,

The Duke of Portland having
in his Letter of the 24th of last
Month, transmitted to my Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, an
Extract of a Letter which His Grace
had received from Major General
Sheppel, stating that no orders had
been received at Martinique for
payment of the Expences for the Rent
of Houses occupied by His Majesty's
Naval Department in that Island;
I have their Lordships Commands to
acquaint you that on the 4th April
1797, orders were given to the Navy

Board

John King Esq

Board to cause the Expenses which
might have been, or should thereapt
be, incurred for the Rent of Houses
occupied by His Majesty's Naval
Department in Martinique, to be
discharged.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant

Edw. Peckham

Admiralty Office, 4th June 1798

Sir

Captain Uzzeld of his Majesty's
Ship Actæon at Liverpool, having by
his Letter of the 31st Ultimo, acquainted
me, for the information of my Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, that he
had for the reasons therein mentioned,
received on board that Ship two
Persons who were Passengers on board
a Vessel which had arrived at that
Port from Ireland; and desired to
receive their Lordships directions
respecting the disposal of the said
Persons; I am commanded by their
Lordships to send you herewith a
Copy of the said Letter for the infor-
mation of the Duke of Portland, and
to desire you will be pleased to receive

His

Y^{rs} Wm Wickham Esq^r

His Grace's directions respecting the
disposal of the Persons aforementioned.

I have it farther in command to
acquaint you for His Grace's information
that their Lordships have directed
Captain Uguld to take charge of, and
detain the aforementioned Persons,
until the Mayor of Liverpool shall
have received directions concerning
them, and also to give every assistance
in his power to the Magistracy in
carrying into execution the Instructions
they have received from His Grace
in this important Crisis; receiving and
boarding the said Ship any Persons of
the description ordered to be stopped
upon application being made to him
for that purpose by the Mayor.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant
Evan Nepean